

# The Messiah's Mission: the Ministry of Making Disciples

Matthew 8:1-17

**MPS** Jesus the Messiah comes in power to bear the brokenness of our sin and transform the one who follows Him.

**OBJ** Every person can know Jesus' ministry by Three Distinctive Glories that demonstrate His worthiness to be followed with your whole life.

**INTRO** Today we begin a continued series through the gospel of Matthew as we study "The Messiah's Mission: the Ministry of Making Disciples". This study of chapters 8–10 surveys Matthew's introduction of Jesus' earthly ministry with a special focus on his fulfillment of God's promise of Messiah through His distinctive power and serving. The teaching and the powerful work of Jesus on earth not only proved that He was God's promised Messiah, but also called people to trust and follow Him. Throughout this series you will hear the call to follow Jesus by faith. **The main way Jesus' call to follow will come is by the magnetism of his life of serving others.** The first impression one gets of Jesus is simply this: He is the most magnetic person you could ever encounter. He is approachable. He is inviting. He is unavoidable. **In this series we exalt the living Lord Jesus to call each one of us to trust Him with our whole lives and live as Christ-followers!**

**Jesus the Messiah comes in power to bear the brokenness of our sin and transform the one who follows Him.**

**TRANS** And so we begin today with the question, "Who is this Messiah and what does it mean to be made as His disciple?"

**OBJ** Three Distinctive Glories of Jesus' ministry that demonstrate His worthiness to be followed with your whole life.

## 1. **Jesus Willingly awaits the needy person who believes to ask. 8:1-4**

*When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup>And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup>And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them." **Matt 8:1-4***

A leper approaches Jesus in the midst of great crowds. This in itself is a courageous act in that day. As a leper in that day, there was little to no hope in life, only to exist until you died. But this leper held a different kind of hope, one birthed from what he had heard about Jesus.

He approaches Jesus, kneels before him and says, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." There is a complete submission before Jesus and a powerful statement of faith. His statement was not a generic one about Jesus' ability, but specific and personal that went straight to the heart of Jesus' will; "if you will". Jesus did not hesitate, but immediately shattered cultural expectations to touch him. And Jesus' response states, "I will; be clean".

Jesus demonstrates in the most compassionate and merciful way to this leper His willingness to make him clean. Reaching out to touch the man may be the most potent act of this story, for the grace of personal touch is the first act of forbidden of a leper. Before Jesus made the man clean, he showed His willingness by his personal touch, then the healing. What beauty, mercy and grace is demonstrated in this moment. **Jesus does not have to be conjured up or cajoled, He willingly awaits the person who will believe to ask.**

**It is one thing to believe that Jesus CAN do something.** But it's a completely different kind of belief that knows Jesus WILL do something if you ask. And that different kind of belief makes all the difference. **Have you ever reached the point in your life where you have come to know that Jesus WILL do something, that He WILL answer your prayer?** Maybe you've thought, "but my problem is of no concern for Jesus; it's too big, or not big enough to bother Him with, I should be able to handle this on my own", or "this is just the way it is and I need to get used to it." All of these are subtle temptations to remain silent and deny Jesus' willingness, instead of confessing our great need and asking Him for His power and help.



I'm not sure how it got started, but somewhere along the way Christians became thought of, both by themselves and outsiders, as 'people who have it all together', when that is the opposite of reality. Christians are people who continually confess "Lord, I am unclean, but I know you can make me clean." because we know Jesus is willing. **Is there anything preventing you from coming to Jesus today, out of the depth of your need to pray, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."?** Come to Jesus today and you will find that He is willing, and He is waiting to receive you.

The first distinctive glory of Jesus' ministry that I want you to see this morning is His willingness that awaits you, in your need, to believe and ask Him for His healing power.

**TRANS** Let's move to the next passage and see our second, distinctive glory of Jesus' ministry.

**READ** Matthew 8:5-13

*When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup>"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." <sup>7</sup>And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup>But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup>I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup>while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup>And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment. **Matthew 8:5-13***

The Centurion demonstrates a faith that Jesus said was unlike any other faith He had encountered. The Centurion requests Jesus to help his servant. Jesus immediately agrees and plans to go with him. But something happens in this moment that amazes even Jesus. Because of the Centurion's understanding of authority, he knew that Jesus' power would be present wherever His authority reached. And he was not worthy to bother Jesus enough to have him come to his house. But if Jesus would just speak the word his servant would be healed. The faith we hear from this soldier provides an amazing insight.

## **2. Jesus' Power reaches where His Authority resides. 8:5-13**

A Roman Centurion teaches us an amazing truth about Jesus' power, that wherever His authority resides we can be confident that there His power is fully present. And what a powerful promise. The Centurion asked a great request of Jesus because he recognized what Jesus later states in the Great Commission, that He holds all authority in heaven and on earth. **There is NO PLACE, no problem nor situation, that the full measure of God's power does not reside. You will never encounter anything in your life where Jesus' power is not fully sufficient because He holds all authority!**

Before Jesus responded to the Centurion, He spoke to all others standing around of the greatness of this faith. Jesus' describes His amazement as the Centurion believes in the expanse of His power by speaking His word because He knows His authority. Jesus says that many who presume they get a free pass into the kingdom will be thrown out, but many who no one knew were invited will be welcomed because of this kind of faith. **The Centurion amazes Jesus by demonstrating great faith in trusting that Jesus' power will reach where His authority resides by His word spoken.**

**Imagine for just a moment, if you lived like you really believed this, how this would change everything.** "Lord, if you would just speak a word, I know it would happen because I believe in your authority." This faith is not great because of the person who has it, but because of the depth of understanding and confident trust in the One in which it is placed! Imagine how this would change the way you read God's Word spoken in the Bible. Imagine how this would change how you received what you read in the Bible. Imagine how this would change God's Word illuminated in you by Holy Spirit. **Faith that amazes Jesus is the person who knows the power of His Word can reach anywhere because His authority is over everything.**

**APPL** Jesus calls us to a great faith as demonstrated by the Centurion; not a faith that is great in size by us, but in the fullness of understanding and depth of trust of the One in whom we place it. **Are you trusting God's Word in this amazing**



way, confident of His power to act because He holds all authority? Is there any need in your life, no matter how small or large, over which you need Him to speak His Word of power today? Believe today, and watch God work!

**READ Matthew 8:14-17**

*And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. <sup>15</sup>He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. <sup>16</sup>That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." **Matthew 8:14-17***

**TRANS** Matthew begins chapter eight with an image of Jesus descending from the mountain with a great power that impacts every person He encounters. And these last three verses show the scope and posture of Jesus' power.

Jesus enters Peter's house where his mother-in-law lay sick. He touched her and healed her, and she was immediately restored to health and serving. Matthew records that many were brought to Him that evening and with varied problems, sick, demon-oppressed, and evil spirits. And all of this was to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy how Jesus would take our illnesses and bear our diseases. Matthew shows that this great power that descended from the mountain knows no boundary or limit on what His power can do. Jesus, God's Messiah has come to fulfill God's great promise. And here He is waiting for any who will come.

**TRANS** The third distinctive glory of Jesus' ministry is this,

**3. Jesus Waits for all who will come to Him. 8:14-17**

No one who comes to Jesus is left untouched by His power; NO ONE! He waits to receive any who will believe and come to Him. The only issue that remains is this; **Jesus waits for you, won't you come to Him today? Jesus' waiting is your invitation; all you must do is believe.**

**Jesus the Messiah comes in power to bear the brokenness of our sin and transform the one who follows Him.**

**CLOSE** One last, but most important aspect of these passages cannot be overlooked. Matthew begins with three people, a leper, a Gentile, and a woman, who, from a Jewish viewpoint, would have been considered most unlikely to receive Jesus' healing power.<sup>1</sup> Yet, Matthew shows the surpassing greatness of Jesus' willingness to minister to those that others see as unworthy. Do not miss what Matthew shows us in these passages. Jesus is willing to make clean all who come to Him. There is no place nor situation that His power cannot reach and heal by His Word. And He waits to touch with His healing power all who will come to Him! Do not allow any thought or temptation to cause you to believe today that Jesus is not ready and willing to display His glory in your life. Come today while Jesus waits to receive you!

<sup>1</sup> Leon Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 187. Morris states, "Matthew starts this section with miracles of healings for three people who would all have been considered unlikely from the Jewish point of view: a leper (and thus unclean), a Gentile, and a woman. They bring out something of the compassion and the wide sympathy of Jesus, as well as his power."

